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The bottom of the great hull of the liner is doubled, the inner shell being strong enough to float the ship even if the outer hull be completely torn away. It is exceedingly unlikely that water would ever reach this inner shell through accident to the main hull, but the precaution is taken so that if it should strike a hidden object it will prove absolutely invulnerable. The shipwrecks of the past caused by running upon hidden rocks, derelicts and icebergs are thus completely eliminated.—M. B. Cea in Cassier's Magazine.

STARTLED THE BISHOP.

An Untimely Royal Letter and the Message It Conveyed.

One night at 3 o'clock the bishop of Orleans was roused by a royal courier who had in hot haste brought a dispatch from his majesty Louis XV. The bishop imagined that something terrible had happened. Tremblingly he opened the package and read:

"Monseigneur the Bishop of Orleans—My daughters wish for some preserved Orleans quinces. Pray send some. If you have none I beg that you will."

In this part of the letter there was a drawing of a sedan chair, and underneath the chair the king's letter continued thus:

"Send immediately into your episcopal town and get them, and, monseigneur the bishop, may God have you in his holy keeping. Louis."

Lower down on the page was this postscript:

"The sedan chair does not mean anything. It was drawn by my daughter on this sheet of paper, which I happened to find near me."

Greatly relieved, the bishop hurried a courier into Orleans, procured the preserves and sent them to his royal master.—Thomas E. Watson in "The Story of France."

Value of New Ideas.

Some large business firms employ a man whose sole duty it is to read every trade journal, every technical paper or pamphlet and every magazine in order to get new ideas about the conduct of their business. Such information is laid each day before the heads of the various departments, who in turn pass it down the line to men under them and see that the new idea is tested. By this means each worker is kept in touch with what other men are doing in his particular line, and so his personal efficiency is increased. Almost everything can be done in a manner a little better than the present way, and modern business demands to know and practice the best. Dialogues carried around a cup to drink water out of till one day he saw a dog lapping water with his tongue. He threw away his cup and afterward drank water out of the palm of his hand. He got from the dog a new idea.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Gold That Blackens.

Blackening of cuffs and shirt fronts by the rubbed off gold is a matter of much annoyance to jewelers when their customers come back, thinking they have bought brass. The skin on the neck as well as on the fingers is frequently discolored by fourteen carat, eighteen carat and, some say, pure gold. An expert says that even in the case of pure gold this coloration of the skin is not due to any particular properties of the metal, but, rather, is the result of chemical changes in the body or, rather, in the perspiration and natural oil of the skin.—Exchange.

Globe Trotters Plus.

A number of tourists were recently looking down the crater of Vesuvius. An American gentleman said to his companion:

"That looks a good deal like the infernal regions."

An English lady, overhearing the remark, said to another:

"Good gracious, how these Americans do travel!"—Lippincott's.

A Change of Name.

"Who can give a sentence using the word pendulum?" asked the teacher.

Little Rachel's hand shot up. The teacher nodded encouragingly.

"Lightning was invented by Benjamin Franklin."—Everybody's.

Drawn Glass.

On account of its great strength drawn glass is used for many purposes. It withstands sudden changes of temperature, resists fire to a great extent and is very strong.

"Oh, Ye of Little Faith!"

Anxious Customer—Are you sure that you have that medicine mixed right? Druggist—No, I am not, but I've got it mixed the way the doctor ordered it.—Judge's Library.

Who overcomes by force hath overcome but half his foe.—Milton.

FOOTBALL IS DANGEROUS.

At Least It Was For the Man Who Tried to Introduce the Game Into Turkey.

It is, or was until recently, a difficult matter to be a sportsman in Turkey. One Rehad Bey tried it, with a result weird enough to serve as a basis for a detective story or a comic opera.

The young Turk had organized a football team among his friends, together with some Greeks and Armenians, and began practicing. Not very long after, in the middle of the night, police came to his house and carried him off to Scutari. There he was submitted to a long interrogation as to the club and the game of football.

The authorities were convinced that they had found a great plot and that the club must be a secret society. A special messenger was sent for the ball, and that was duly examined and found to be an infernal machine. The rules of the game were considered to be another piece of damning evidence, and still worse were the sweaters and colors of the club.

After long deliberation the culprit was sent to the higher police authorities in Stamboul, who went through a second long examination and came to the conclusion that the empire had been saved from disintegration by the early discovery of a great plot. They dispatched the whole matter to be inquired into at the sultan's palace at Yildiz, and a special commission took the matter in hand.

After much careful thought and examination of the evidence of the crime it was decided that there might not be nothing in it, but that it must not be committed again.—Harper's Weekly.

UNWRITTEN BOOKS.

Stories Planned and Promised That Never Saw the Light.

The Bookman republishes a paper by Professor Brander Matthews entitled "Unwritten Books" that was first printed many years ago. Professor Matthews speaks of the projected books and plays that never saw the light and have been read, like bills in congress, by title only.

Moliere planned a comedy under the title "L'Homme de Cour," which was to be his masterpiece. Nothing is known of it today. Richard Brinsley Sheridan intended to write a follower to "The School for Scandal" and "The Rivals." The subject was "Affection." It never went beyond a few random notes.

For years the paper covers of every new book that Victor Hugo issued continued to announce as soon to be published a romance entitled "La Quenouille." Many posthumous volumes of the French poet's writing in prose and verse have been sent forth by his literary executors, but of this oddly entitled fiction nothing has been heard. In 1862 Alphonse Daudet announced in a press a volume of short stories to be called "La Pentaméron." The book remained unpublished and apparently unwritten. The younger Dumas has left on record more than one reference to a comedy to be called "La Route de Thebes," planned before "Francillon," but never given to the public.

Roasting an Egg.

Every boy and girl down on the farm in times gone by used to roast eggs, pieces of meat and potatoes in embers in the old wood cook stove or in the big open fireplace. Barns were searched for hens' nests, and the fine, fresh eggs were wrapped in heavy paper. The paper was dampened, and several thicknesses of it protected the eggs from scorching. You know, wet paper in a ball is hard to burn. Well, the wrapped up eggs were put on the live coals and partially covered by them. In from five to fifteen minutes the egg was roasting hot and ready to eat with salt, pepper and butter. A pin hole was made in the big end of the egg so as to let the steam escape to keep it from bursting the shell and the meats from running out. If you have never as a small boy roasted such eggs you have missed one of childhood's greatest joys.—New York Press.

How It Got There.

A gamekeeper was going over his master's estate one morning, when he encountered a gentleman of the poaching class. The gamekeeper noticed that the other's hat was bulging in a curious manner. After subjecting the hat to an examination he found a fine young pheasant.

"How did this get here?" the gamekeeper asked, glaring at the culprit. "Blowed if I know," growled the poacher, gazing at the pheasant with an apparent look of great perplexity. "The blooming thing must have crawled up my trousers leg."—London Tit-Bits.

A Loan In Fancy.

"You won't run any risk in lending me a thousand francs. I am writing a novel that is sure to go. You know as well as I do what an imagination I have."

"Well, you'd better imagine that I have lent you the money, then."—Pele Mele.

The Worm Turned.

Her Dad—No, sir; I won't have my daughter tied for life to a stupid fool. Her Suitor—Then don't you think you had better let me take her off your hands?—Boston Transcript.

The Ruling Passion.

Reporter (at front door)—There is a rumor that Mr. Greatman has just died. Is this true? Butler—Yes, but he has nothing to say for publication.—Life.

bled them white.

This Was the Treatment Sufferers From Fever Got Till Quinine Wrought a Change.

In 1882, when the French were conducting a campaign of conquest in Algeria, the mortality among the troops and colonists there was frightful. France was being continually called upon for fresh levies of men and youths to supply this terrible loss, chiefly from fever incidental to the climate.

At that time the practice of bleeding still prevailed. "Bled them till they are white" was the injunction which Broussais, the head physician of the French, gave to his followers when the condition of the soldiers was reported to him.

At Bone in one year out of an effective force of 5,500 men, 1,100 died of illness in the hospital. Most of them had been "bled to the white."

At this time the effects of sulphate of quinine were known, but few physicians ventured to employ it. One, Maillot, had interested himself in the new remedy and, going to Bone in the medical service of the government, he resolved to see if it would not reduce the frightful mortality, which was one to every three and one-half men who entered the hospital.

At first he employed the quinine merely as an adjunct to the bleeding. He soon found that bleeding was killing the men and that quinine was saving them. Little by little he left off bleeding, to the great scandal of the medical profession.

Exactly in proportion as the bleeding ceased the deaths in the hospital decreased. In two years the deaths fell off from one in three and a half of all who entered the hospital to one in twenty and finally to one in forty-six.

Maillot, quite naturally enough, became an earnest opponent of bleeding, but he was so actively resisted and so ceaselessly vilified that he became embittered toward his colleagues.

Nearly thirty years passed before Maillot saw the complete triumph of his ideas. Doctors continued to bleed their patients heartily for all manner of ills. But in 1860 Maillot was made commander of the Legion of Honor and chief of the medical staff of the French army, and his influence, with others, in bringing about a virtual revolution in the practice of medicine was fully recognized.—Harper's Weekly.

Missed a Train That Was a Day Late.

When the Swiss City division of the Illinois Central was built it was known as the Indiana and Illinois Southern. It was a narrow gauge road; the road bed was bad, the engines and cars were built on a miniature scale, and while there was a schedule, had a train been on time the fact would have been regarded as a miracle. The road was known as the "Try-Weekly." On one occasion Josiah McConnell desired to go to Swiss City from Sullivan, but missed the train by a minute or two. The clock at the station showed that the train had left Sullivan five minutes ahead of time, and McConnell sued the railroad company for \$5,000 damages. On a trial of the case it was proved beyond a doubt that the train McConnell missed should have gone the day before and was really twenty-three hours and fifty-five minutes late.

Lettres de Cachet.

Lettres de cachet was the name given in France to warrants sealed with the king's seal ordering persons to be thrown into prison or exiled. The first came into use about 1670 and shortly became one of the popular terrors of France. It is said that no less than 9,000 lettres de cachet were issued during the reign of Louis XIV, and 80,000 during the reign of Louis XV. In many cases these terrible documents were secretly sold and used as a source of illicit revenue. They were frequently signed in blank, and the holder of one of these royal terrors could write in the name of any person against whom he happened to have a grudge. The national assembly abolished this iniquitous privilege of issuing lettres de cachet on Nov. 1, 1789.

Juvenile Logic.

Little Mabel's mother was expecting Mabel's auntie on a visit. Just as she was almost due to arrive a telegram came, which read: "Missed train. Will start at same time tomorrow."

Mabel hurried home from school, expecting to greet her auntie, instead of which she was shown the telegram. She read it through carefully and laboriously, and then she remarked:

"How silly of auntie, mamma!"

"Why, dear?" inquired her mother.

"Well, don't you see that if she starts at the same time tomorrow she will miss the train again."—Illustrated Bits.

Absurd.

Bootmaker (who has a deal of trouble with his customer)—I think, sir, if you were to cut your corns I could more easily find you a pair. Choleric Old G. Attleman—Cut my corns, sir! I ask you to fit me a pair of boots to my feet, sir! I'm not going to plane my feet down to fit your boots!—London Telegraph.

Very Diplomatic. "You say De Skill plays an ideal game of golf?"

"Yes. He plays well enough to make it interesting for an influential friend without actually beating him."—New York Telegram.

Humorist In Straits.

Beggar—Please help me to recover my child. Lady—Is your child lost? Beggar—No, mum, but his clothes are worn out.—Boston Transcript.

Nothing is so dear and so precious as time.—Rabelais.

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